

Feminist Philosophy Sources for High School Philosophy Classes

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Introduction to Feminist Thought

A very thorough and accessible book is:

Tong, Rosemarie Putnam. *Feminist Thought*. 3rd ed. United States: Westview, 2009.

- A general introduction to the intellectual debates and theories behind the feminist movement – radical feminism, ecofeminism, Marxist feminism, etc. This would be good background for you if you ever want to teach about feminist thought, even if you don't assign this to your students.

For a rundown of contemporary sexism (especially useful if your students think that feminism is over, or there's no need for it), see:

Rhode, Deborah L. *Speaking of Sex: The Denial of Gender Inequality*. Cambridge: Harvard, 1997.

Faludi, Susan. *Backlash: The Undeclared War on American Women*. United States: Crown, 1991.

Contemporary Feminist Philosophers and Feminist Philosophy

There is one excellent anthology in which you can find a number of class-ready articles. It is:

***The Feminist Philosophy Reader*. Eds. Alison Bailey & Chris Cuomo. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2008.**

Best of all, it's available online!

https://sites.sas.upenn.edu/educationglobal/files/the_feminist_philosophy_reader_-_alison_bailey.pdf

Recommended readings in this anthology:

Ethics:

- Gilligan, Carol. "Moral Orientation and Moral Development." 467-478.
- Benhabib, Seyla. "The Generalized and the Concrete Other: The Kohlberg-Gilligan Controversy and Moral Theory." 478-497
- Held, Virginia. "Taking Care: Care as Practice and Value." 497-506

See also:

Noddings, Nel. *Caring: A Feminine Approach to Ethics & Moral Education*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003. 2nd ed.

Political Theory:

- Okin, Susan. "Vulnerability by Marriage." 600-622.
- Frye, Marilyn. "Oppression." 41-49.
- Lorde, Audre. "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House." 49-51.

See also:

Young, Iris Marion. *Justice and the Politics of Difference*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990.

- This is a powerful feminist critique of liberalism. Great to pair with Rawls.

Okin, Susan Moller. *Justice, Gender and the Family*. New York: Basic Books, 1989.

- This classic feminist work critiques the theories of justice of major Western philosophers. Great to pair with Plato, Rousseau, etc. Readable for high school students.

Pateman, Carole. *The Sexual Contract*. Cambridge: Polity, 1988.

- Argues that contract theory (Locke, Hobbes, Rousseau) depends on the subordination of women.

Epistemology and Philosophy of Science

- Code, Lorraine. "Taking Subjectivity into Account." 718-741.
- Jaggar, Alison. "Love and Knowledge: Emotion in Feminist Epistemology." 687-705
- Harding, Sandra. "'Strong Objectivity' and Socially Situated Knowledge." 741-756

See also:

Fox Keller, Evelyn. *Reflections on Gender and Science*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985.

Metaphysics and Ontology

Jaggar, Alison and Susan Bordo, eds. *Gender/body/knowledge: Feminist Reconstructions of Being and Knowing*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1989.

Haraway, Donna. *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*. New York: Routledge, 1991.

Feminist perspectives on social issues/applied philosophy

Nussbaum, Martha. “‘Whether from Reason or Prejudice’: Taking Money for Bodily Services.” Sex and Social Justice. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999, 276-298.

Thompson, Judith Jarvis. “A Defense of Abortion.” *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 1 (1971): 47-66.

Scheppele, Kim Lane. “The Reasonable Woman.” *The Responsive Community, Rights, and Responsibilities* 1.4 (1991). Reprinted in *Philosophy of Law* (7th edition), eds. Joel Feinberg and Jules Coleman. Belmont, CA: Thomson/Wadsworth, 2004.

Readings on the place of women and feminism within contemporary philosophy

Sherwin, Susan. “Philosophical Methodology and Feminist Methodology: Are They Compatible?” Feminist Perspectives: Philosophical Essays on Methods and Morals. Eds. Lorraine Code, Sheila Mullett and Christine Overall. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1988. 13-28.

Urban Walker, Margaret. “Diotima’s Ghost: The Uncertain Place of Feminist Philosophy in Professional Philosophy.” *Hypatia* 20.3 (Summer 2005): 153-164.

Great websites (you may not want to send students here, but use them for teaching feminist philosophy or encouraging your female students)

What Is It Like to Be a Woman in Philosophy?
<https://beingawomaninphilosophy.wordpress.com/>

Feminist Philosophers:
<https://feministphilosophers.wordpress.com/>

Project Vox: Retrieving the work of women in modern Western philosophy
<http://projectvox.library.duke.edu/pg/>

The *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* – the best free online philosophy research resource – has many entries on different aspects of feminist philosophy, including feminist environmental philosophy, feminist philosophy of law, feminist philosophy of religion, feminist perspectives on globalization, and much more. Start here:
<http://plato.stanford.edu/>